

our Republic—it is fitting that we also designate 1992 as a “Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and Non-Indians.”

Because reconciliation begins with mutual understanding and acceptance, this observance is aimed at encouraging cultural education and exchange among American Indians and non-Indians. This year schools, business associations, and the media, as well as religious organizations and civic groups, are invited to join in honoring America’s indigenous peoples and in helping non-Indians to learn more about each tribe’s unique history, customs, and traditions. Through education, we can overcome age-old myths and stereotypes and heal divisions that hinder progress toward our shared goals of equal opportunity and justice.

Over the years, efforts to increase tribal self-governance have brought a renewed sense of pride and empowerment to this country’s native peoples. By continuing to seek full reconciliation among American Indians and non-Indians, we will strengthen and enrich the entire Nation.

The Congress, by Public Law 102–279, has designated 1992 as a “Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and Non-Indians,” and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1992 as a Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and Non-Indians. I invite all Americans to observe this year with appropriate programs and activities in honor of this country’s native peoples and in recognition of the importance of promoting increased understanding among all the inhabitants of this great and blessed land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6451 of June 23, 1992

National Scleroderma Awareness Month, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Scleroderma is a painful, disfiguring, and sometimes life-threatening disease that can strike individuals of any age or background, although it occurs predominantly among women in the prime of life. Individuals who have this disease experience hardening of the skin caused by excessive accumulation of the structural protein collagen. Scleroderma also affects the blood vessels and immune system and can impair the function of the kidneys, lungs, heart, or gastrointestinal tract.

Although the cause of the disease remains a mystery, scientists and physicians are gaining a better understanding of scleroderma. For example, researchers have found that the activity of endothelin, a newly discovered proteinaceous substance produced by blood vessels, ap-

pears to link two important and otherwise distinct features of scleroderma: constriction of small blood vessels and overproduction of collagen. Blood vessels of patients with scleroderma commonly contract for extended periods of time, thereby reducing the flow of oxygen to vital body parts and damaging their ability to function normally. This finding and others offer new opportunities to develop more effective treatments for scleroderma. Today, many dedicated men and women are working together through governmental, scientific, and voluntary health organizations to seize such opportunities. Their efforts are grounds for hope.

In order to enhance public understanding of scleroderma and to emphasize the need for continuing research, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 445, has designated June 1992 as "National Scleroderma Awareness Month" and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 1992 as National Scleroderma Awareness Month. I encourage all appropriate government agencies and the people of the United States—in particular, members of the media and the scientific and health care communities—to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that will enhance public awareness of scleroderma and the importance of research on this disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6452 of June 30, 1992

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Approximately one of every 1,000 newborns in the United States is affected by spina bifida, a serious and often debilitating neurological disorder. Spina bifida occurs when a baby's spinal cord develops abnormally while he or she is still in the womb, resulting in nerve damage that can lead to muscle paralysis, loss of sensation in the lower limbs, and bowel and bladder complications. The disorder is often accompanied by hydrocephalus, an excessive and potentially dangerous accumulation of fluid within the brain. While in the past the prognosis was grim for children with spina bifida, currently some 80–90 percent of affected children survive the disorder, thanks to advances in surgery and other forms of intervention and treatment. Heartened by the progress that we have made thus far, our nation remains firmly committed to the fight against spina bifida.

Through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Federal Government is working to find better treatments